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# General Assembly
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*Official Records*

First Committee
15th meeting
Thursday, 17 October 2002, 3 p.m.
New York

*Chairman*: Mr. Kiwanuka ..... (Uganda)

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda items 57, 58 and 60 to 73 (*continued*)**

**Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security items**

**The Chairman**: The first speaker is the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, who will introduce resolution A/C.1/57/L.16.

**Mr. Sealy** (Trinidad and Tobago): Since this is the first occasion on which the delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is taking the floor in the First Committee at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, allow me, Sir, to express my delegation's total satisfaction at seeing you preside over this Committee's work, as well as at the manner in which you and the other members of the Bureau have been conducting the work of the Committee on the vital issue of disarmament.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of October 2002, I have the honour to introduce on behalf of the Group this year's draft resolution on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is contained in document A/C.1/57/L.16.

Fortunately, the Latin American and Caribbean region has to a large extent been spared in recent times the ravages and debilitating effects of internal and cross-border conflicts with which other regions have been afflicted. In that regard, it is therefore important that we in the region continue to strive to attain the interrelated goals of peace, stability, security and development.

An analysis of the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the Centre, contained in document A/57/116 of 27 June 2002, reveals that the Centre continues to discharge effectively its mandate. To that end, some of the activities in which the Centre was engaged during the reporting period July 2001 to June 2002 have been the signing of memorandums of understanding, one with the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation on cooperation on measures to reduce illegal trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; and the other with the Costa Rican-based United Nations-affiliated University for Peace, on joint measures to facilitate cooperation and coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean through research and training activities on matters relating to peace, disarmament and development.

In each of the seven areas in which the Centre's activities are concentrated — namely firearms, ammunition and explosives, anti-personnel landmines, conventional weapons, nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and information and public events — the Centre has organized seminars and workshops, participated in symposiums, assessed the feasibility of the destruction of several thousand firearms and rounds of ammunition at the request of two neighbouring Latin American countries, observed the final destruction in

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Peru of thousands of anti-personnel landmines, forged institutional links with other regional organizations and treaty bodies to identify synergies and to avoid duplication of effort and, finally, has even begun the preparation of publications, focusing on the activities of the Centre relating to anti-personnel landmines, import and export of conventional weapons, military expenditures, and confidence-building and security-building measures.

In the light of the very substantive activities that have been carried out by the Centre and the highly relevant projects that are planned but which require extrabudgetary resources, it gives me great pleasure to submit draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.16 and to draw to the attention of members the key provisions of this year's draft resolution.

In the third preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would underline the revitalization of the Centre, the efforts to that end not only of the Peruvian Government, but also of other countries, as well as the important work done by the Centre's Director, which includes vigorous fundraising efforts. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would welcome the decision of the Cuban Government to ratify the Treaty of Tlatelolco on the denuclearization of Latin America and the Caribbean. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would also welcome the creation of the South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation, which was declared by the Presidents of South America in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 27 July 2002.

In the operative paragraphs, the General Assembly would, first, reiterate its strong support for the role of the Regional Centre. It would express its satisfaction and congratulate the Centre on the expansion of the vast range of activities carried out in the fields of peace, disarmament and development, while at the same time requesting it to take into account proposals to be submitted by countries in the region that are aimed at promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, disarmament and development at the regional level.

The General Assembly would also express its appreciation for the political support granted and the financial contributions made to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation. It would recognize the important role of the Centre in the promotion of regional initiatives agreed upon by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the fields of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, as well as with regard to the relationship between disarmament and development.

The draft resolution would also have the General Assembly appeal to regional Member States, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations either to make or to increase their voluntary contributions so as to strengthen the Regional Centre and thus facilitate the implementation of its programme of activities. Finally, it would request the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate.

This draft resolution has been the object of consultations among interested delegations, and we are confident that, like similar texts in the past, it will receive the support of the General Assembly.

**Mr. Flores** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have requested to speak on the draft resolution on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/C.1/57/L.16), as just introduced by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of all the countries of the region. The draft resolution is the result of consensus among all Latin American and Caribbean delegations and represents a joint endeavour that shows the growing interest of all countries in the work done by the Regional Centre.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago has very clearly explained the most important aspects of the draft resolution. Therefore, as the representative of the Centre's host country, I should like to brief the Committee on only a few of the most prominent activities that the Centre has carried out this year. It is very significant that the Secretary-General appointed the Director of the Centre as Executive Secretary of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. That appointment shows the utility of the Centre and its credibility, not only among Member States but also in the eyes of the Organization itself.

The Regional Centre has formulated an important weapons destruction project that seeks to support Member States in implementing the 1997 Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing

of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Centre has worked with the Government of Argentina to destroy more than 2,000 firearms in the Mendoza region, where there were two stockpiles of weapons and ammunition. At the same time, it is cooperating in the destruction of 10,000 firearms in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There are plans to destroy more than 30,000 firearms and approximately 100,000 rounds of ammunition in Argentina, Paraguay and Peru this year.

On 5 October in Madrid, the Centre, in cooperation with the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, served as a platform for the creation of the first Permanent Forum of Parliamentarians committed to implementing the Programme of Action. The Forum is composed of parliamentarians from Central America and was supported by the Parliaments of Spain and Sweden. The Forum's purpose is to facilitate reform of national firearms legislation and to urge Governments to sign and implement international agreements.

We believe that the Centre has a very important role to play in the context of the new disarmament initiatives in the region and that it must continue to be supported through the provision of advice and assistance. We hope that this draft resolution, coordinated by my country and submitted by the representatives of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, will be adopted by consensus, as has been customary with similar texts.

**Mr. Hu** Xiaodi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): On 14 October 2002, the Chinese State Council promulgated the regulations of the People's Republic of China on export control of dual-use biological agents and related equipment and technologies, which clearly set out Chinese export control measures with respect to dual-use biological agents and related equipment and technologies. China has always advocated the total prohibition and destruction of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, including biological weapons. As a State party to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), China has always earnestly fulfilled its obligations. China has never developed, produced or stockpiled biological weapons and has never helped any other country to acquire or to develop such weapons. China has always opposed the proliferation of biological weapons and has taken a comprehensive set of strict export control measures.

The newly published regulations on the export control of dual-use biological agents and related equipment and technologies were formulated in consideration of the domestic and international situations and were based on domestic practices and the experiences of other countries in the area of export control. As one of the significant measures that China has undertaken to improve its export control of sensitive items, the regulations will further improve China's export control of dual-use biological agents and related equipment and technologies.

In accordance with the provisions of the BWC, States parties are obligated to promote international exchanges and cooperative activities for peaceful purposes in the biological field. China attaches importance to such activities and will continue them. The Chinese Government formulated its regulations to respond to international developments and to the need to enhance the rule of law in China, and also to regulate exchange and cooperative activities between China and other countries in the biological field.

When they enter into force, the regulations — along with existing regulations related to export control — will establish a comprehensive non-proliferation and export control system covering all sensitive items in the nuclear, biological, chemical and missile fields. That will further improve the legal framework for export control and will thus have a significant bearing on China's ability to fulfil its international non-proliferation obligations and on the normal development of its foreign trade and economic activities.

**Mr. Baeidi Nejad** (Islamic Republic of Iran): My statement will focus on regional disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones has been widely recognized as an important and decisive way to promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. In fact, nuclear-weapon-free zones have become necessary complementary steps towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. Unfortunately, despite the strong call by the international community, a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has yet to be established. No practical step has been taken to respond to the demand of 29 years of relevant General Assembly resolutions or to the urgent call that review

conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have made since 1995.

The establishment of a region free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East has now been facilitated by the accession to the NPT of all parties in the region except Israel. Israel is the only party in the region that continues, in defiance of the international community, to challenge the fundamental principles of the non-proliferation regime and that consequently declines to join the NPT. Israel, which suffers from its illegitimacy in the region, has chosen a policy of terror, intimidation and expansion. Therefore, Israel is pursuing an active programme of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, which has subjected the entire region to insecurity and volatile tension. Israel is operating a clandestine nuclear weapons programme at the Dimona site, which has lacked safeguards since its establishment. In fact, Israel has refused to allow any inspectors — even inspectors from its allied countries — to enter the site.

What is more important, Israel, through its policy of rejecting multilateral disarmament agreements, has created a situation in which States in the region are insecure about acceding to international treaties on weapons of mass destruction. My country, as an original State party to the NPT, to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), is extremely concerned at this menacing situation. Ultimately, Israel, in trying to justify its universally unacceptable policy, has continuously directed false and unverified accusations against other countries in the region.

The situation in the region is hectic and only a clear policy of all parties in the region to adhere to multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament agreements, along with sincere efforts to make the region free from weapons of mass destruction, can save lives and create peace and security. We should therefore spare no effort in consolidating our stance to further promote this objective.

Three basic steps need to be taken in this context. Israel should first accede to the NPT and place its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency. To that end, as the second step, the developed States should particularly refrain from transferring or exporting relevant materials, equipment and technology to Israel, which has not committed itself to the non-proliferation and disarmament cause. Thirdly, all other parties to the NPT in the reg should comply and continue to comply with t obligations under the Treaty.

The reiteration in this year's draft resolution which is expected to be adopted by consensus — of long-standing principled position of the internati community with regard to the establishment o nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East an region free from weapons of mass destruction is another occasion for a manifestation of determination of the General Assembly to further important initiative.

**The Chairman**: I call on the representative Poland to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.48.

**Mr. Jakubowski** (Poland): As this is the time I am taking the floor in this Committee, allow first to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to high office. I would like to assure you of the suppo my delegation and my best congratulations also g the members of your Bureau.

It is my pleasure to present to the Committee, on behalf of Canada and Poland, the d resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Prohibition of the Development, Product Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction".

As in previous years, this draft resolution's is to strengthen the role of and further mobilize sup for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which is best delivery vehicle on the road towards a world of these abhorrent weapons. The Convention, w entered into force more than five years ago, se purposes of fundamental importance. This import is growing, nowadays in particular. Since its entry force, for the States parties the prohibition of chem weapons and warfare, the obligation to des chemical weapons under strict internati verification and the destruction of production facil within a specific time have become legal obligati The States parties must also be fully open to Convention's verification regime in order to ensure non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

We can and should be satisfied with the prog that has been made over the past five years in mee the Convention's objectives. Verification proced and provisions have proved effective. A signifi

amount of chemical weapons stockpiles has been destroyed. Our world is definitely safer.

The pivotal role in this process has been played by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) through the processing of national declarations, the conduct of on-site inspections or the provision of technical assistance to States parties in fulfilling their obligations. It is reassuring and satisfying to see the OPCW move towards higher levels of excellence in performing its duties.

Much work, indeed, has been done, but much remains to be done towards achieving the ultimate purpose of the Convention. The States parties have invested a great deal in the process of the Convention's implementation. They do their best at many levels — at the meetings of the States parties in The Hague or in their cooperation with OPCW. To cite just the latest example, the first OPCW international assistance and delivery exercise was held in September in Croatia, in accordance with article X of the Convention.

Nevertheless, we all know that not all objectives and purposes of the Chemical Weapons Convention have been fully met. Moreover, in addition to old, well-known facts, a new one has appeared: the threat of chemical terrorism. The international community must ensure that chemical weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists. Thus, it is more than evident that the importance of the Convention is growing. Also growing are the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and OPCW in the framework of the Relationship Agreement.

In view of all this, the universalization of the Convention remains of the highest priority. It would certainly help to stop each and every entity from violating the Convention. The further enlargement of the group of States parties is key to the full implementation of the Convention. As I speak, 146 States are parties to the Convention, but, as all representatives certainly know, Samoa deposited its instruments of ratification of the Convention with the Secretary-General on 27 September. Accordingly, Samoa will become the 147th State party to the Convention on 27 October 2002, before the General Assembly takes action on this draft resolution. We also hope that the first Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held at The Hague in 2003, will generate a new impetus in efforts towards the universalization and full implementation of all provisions of the Convention.

In dealing with this draft resolution, Canada and Poland have once again decided to follow a long-standing strategy and not to invite additional co-sponsors. We are very grateful to all delegations for their support of and dedication to the cause of the Convention, as well as for their understanding of our position.

In conclusion, on behalf of Canada and Poland, I express our hope that the draft resolution may once again be adopted without a vote as a manifestation of the international community's commitment to totally banning and eliminating these abhorrent weapons.

**Ms. Higgins** (Canada): The Canadian delegation referred earlier this week to the uniquely horrific characteristics of nuclear weapons. But other weapons of mass destruction — chemical and biological — are also abhorrent and repugnant, to quote the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. We need to get rid of all of them. To that end, we must reinforce the norms and fulfil the Conventions we have built against them.

Canada is pleased to co-sponsor, together with Poland, a draft resolution reaffirming the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention and of achieving its universality and its full implementation. This still relatively young international instrument, with an impressive number of States parties — close to 150 in such a short time — has already demonstrated its value in our collective fight against this scourge. This year, with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons embarking on a new era and with States parties preparing for the Convention's first review conference, it is important that the First Committee and the General Assembly send a message of strong endorsement.

Biological weapons are among the most fearsome weapons of mass destruction. Canada, like so many others, is determined to strengthen and use our conventions to eliminate them. We are pleased that the 1925 Geneva Protocol is now viewed as a component of international humanitarian law. We urge all those who maintain reservations to remove them. We want the Review Conference next month to focus on practical cooperation, building on the commitments

and confidence-building measures that are already in place. Any less would surely betray our Governments' responsibility and confound our peoples' expectations of effective cooperative action.

Also on our agenda is outer space. Canada's position is well known. It was expressed in our general statement. We are committed to preventing the weaponization of outer space. We fear a "tragedy of the commons", and we believe that a multilateral instrument is required. We welcome the draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space," and look forward to its adoption.

**Mr. Mourao** (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): The countries of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — and the associated countries Bolivia and Chile, on whose behalf it is my honour to speak, wish to reiterate our commitment to peace, security and cooperation, as we stated at Ushuaia, Argentine Republic, in July 1998. Ours is a region where peaceful coexistence has been the norm and where dialogue and peaceful options for conflict settlement have prevailed. Taking cooperative action on peace and security is vital to maintaining the pace of progress in economic, social and political integration among our countries. Constant dialogue has been fundamental to creating a climate of transparency and trust in order to maintain peace and friendship among our peoples at a time when democratic institutions have been put to the test as a consequence of the economic crisis afflicting many countries of our region. Likewise, our commitment to peace and security is reflected in the many subregional and bilateral experiences of cooperation and confidence building, including the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), through Argentina and Chile's work on common standardized methodology to measure the defence expenditures of the two countries.

Our contributions to building a climate of security in the hemisphere go well beyond the military aspect. The military institutions, consistent with the aspirations of civil society, have a role to play in building a peaceful, united continent that participates actively in the international system. I wish to express, on behalf of the countries and associated countries of MERCOSUR, our pleasure at the convening in Miami on 9 and 10 December of the Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the region, mandated by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. The meeting will follow up on regional conferences on confidence- and security-building measures, held in Santiago and El Salvador, in order to evaluate their implementation and consider the next step to strengthen mutual confidence, as urged by the heads of State or Government in the Plan of Action adopted at the third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City.

**Mr. Alkubaisi** (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like first of all to express my condolences to the families and Governments of the innocent victims of the terrorist attack in Bali and to the friendly Government and people of Indonesia. We condemn that attack irrespective of its source and objective. In the face of the new challenges confronting the international community, especially international terrorism, it is necessary to respond collectively. The problem of disarmament and international security must take on new dimensions and lead to a firm collective commitment and to a new security approach. We must mobilize all our efforts to resolve questions related to disarmament and other relevant issues.

Draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.27 refers to a resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). That Conference paid special attention to the Middle East, adopting a separate resolution on it, calling on countries that have not yet acceded to the Treaty, without exception, to do so without delay and to adopt the safeguards regime. The same resolution called upon the States of the region to take effective and practical measures to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

In 1974, the General Assembly first adopted a resolution regarding the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Another such resolution was adopted in 1980 by consensus. All Arab countries have acceded to the Treaty, as is mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, document A/53/379. But Israel, to date, has not acceded to the Treaty, and there has been no progress in that regard. Its nuclear installations have not been subjected to the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The State of Qatar has reiterated in international forums its sincere wish to make the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass

destruction. Most recently, a statement was made by the Qatari Minister for Foreign Affairs before the General Assembly on 17 September 2002, in which he said:

> "We in the Middle East are threatened by a clear imbalance of power. Israel is the only country in the region that possesses an arsenal of nuclear weapons and refuses to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We appeal to all peace-loving countries to demand that Israel accede to the Treaty and submit its nuclear installations to the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency." (*A/57/PV.12, p. 29*)

The report of the Secretary-General entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" (A/57/454) notes that the General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of resolution 56/27, reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.

The Secretary-General also referred to resolution GC(46)RES/16 of the IAEA conference entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East", which emphasized the urgent need for the resolution adopted on 20 September 2002 to be accepted by all countries of the Middle East, and also the need for the early application of IAEA safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region as a confidence-building measure among the countries of the region. Peace and security must also be strengthened in order to create a region that is free of nuclear weapons.

The General Conference of the IAEA adopts a similar resolution every year, emphasizing the importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon in helping to create a region that is completely free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and the need to strengthen peace and security there.

In conclusion, if we wish to make the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction, this resolution is extremely vital and important and has positive implications for the countries of the region. The maintenance of peace depends on moral respect for agreements concluded among various parties. Israel must therefore destroy its nuclear arsenals, which would help bring about a just and lasting peace in the region. We in the State of Qatar aspire to a better future and wish to live in a region that is free of weapons of mass destruction, so that the peoples of the Middle East can promote their interests and build their societies, raise their economic standards and live in peace.

**Mr. Oyugi** (Kenya): My delegation is taking the floor to express its support for draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.33, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", which was introduced yesterday by Japan.

On 11 October 2002, the Security Council held a public debate on small arms. The large number of speakers, including Kenya, was a reflection of the importance attached to the matter. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/1053) on the item underscored the fact that the spread of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons posed a global threat to security and human rights. Preventing, combating and eliminating the uncontrolled spread of these weapons poses a challenge to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001, provided a solid basis for action at the national, regional and global levels, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for dealing with the problem lies with the States themselves. Indeed, the Programme of Action adopted at that Conference enumerated the steps ahead, including international cooperation and assistance.

Since then, a number of measures have been taken by the United Nations, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, by the States themselves, both single and in concert with others, and through the involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

Two key issues were touched on during the Conference, namely the supply of arms to private individuals and to non-State actors. As my delegation urged during the earlier general debate, it is hoped that we can seize the opportunity offered by the first biennial meeting next year to further exchange views on those two issues, as they have a direct bearing on the security of private citizens and of States and on international peace and security.

Recent news of an individual roaming certain cities and taking potshots at innocent citizens, killing a

few, has demonstrated the dangers, to which we referred last year, related to the uncontrolled possession of arms.

In furtherance of the implementation of the Programme of Action, South Africa, together with Austria, Canada, Kenya, Mali, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom co-hosted the African Conference on the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms: Needs and Partnerships, held from 18 to 21 March 2002 in Pretoria. The Conference, among other things, looked at cooperation between African and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in this domain.

On 7 and 8 August 2002, States parties to the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms held the first Ministerial Review Conference in Nairobi. The Conference brought together minister of foreign affairs from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The ministers agreed to establish and operationalize national focal points by the end of 2002 and to develop national action plans to combat the menace of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Finally, bearing in mind the fact that no region in the world has been more affected by the spread of these weapons than the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, my delegation calls on all States to support the draft resolution on small arms and light weapons, as elaborated in document A/C.1/57/L.33.

**Mr. Sood** (India): I have asked for the floor in order to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", contained in document A/C.1/57/L.50, under agenda item 62, which has been co-sponsored by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Cuba, the draft resolution, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Viet Nam and Zambia.

India has, since 1989, brought forward before this Committee, along with our co-sponsors, this particular draft resolution, because we consider it an issue of fundamental importance to the international community in general and to the developing world in particular. The progress achieved in the area of science and technology, especially recent momentous advances, offer us immense possibilities for development.

However, there is a need to recognize that several of these advances could have military applications, making them dual-use in character. This year, the draft resolution reiterates that access to scientific and technological developments is unquestionably a crucial prerequisite for developing countries and for their progress towards economic growth and to enable them actively to participate in global trade.

However, because many of these countries are denied access to such technologies, in view of discriminatory control regimes formulated in exclusive groupings that limit exchanges of such technologies among themselves and deny others access, even though these may be required for peaceful development purposes. Such regimes often act as non-economic barriers to normal trade and go against the principles of global equitable economic relations.

It must be recognized that such exclusive export-control policies were initiated to address proliferation concerns at a time when we did not have global agreements in this regard. Questions have since arisen as to whether such exclusive arrangements have really been effective in achieving their stated purpose of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime, especially in the context of scientific and technological applications related to advanced weapons or weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The Chemical Weapons Convention offers an opportunity to put in place a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory legal mechanism that simultaneously addresses proliferation concerns emanating from unregulated transfers while promoting the economic development of States parties. This Convention has placed an obligation on States parties to review their existing national regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to ensure that these are consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

However, the persistence of certain ad hoc export-control regimes creating two categories of States parties reminds us of the need for the early implementation of all of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in order to safeguard its long-term viability.

The setback in negotiations for an effective protocol that could have strengthened the effectiveness and implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) has, unfortunately, prevented the realization of an effective system of regulations and of transfer of agents, toxins, equipment and technologies relevant to the BWC.

The lack of a genuinely non-discriminatory universal agreement regarding nuclear weapons has also reduced the effectiveness of efforts to achieve non-proliferation in the nuclear field. Nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects includes the need for measures that would promote nuclear disarmament and the progressive elimination of nuclear weapons. The absence of such a benchmark makes it difficult to achieve genuine nuclear non-proliferation.

India has been consistent in its stand that proliferation concerns regarding materials and technologies relating to advanced weapons systems and weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory agreements which are transparent and open to universal participation. The reflection of this principle in multilateral disarmament agreements would improve their effectiveness and also create an added impetus for their universality.

What is needed today is an effective and transparent system of export control of technologies in line with non-proliferation objectives in all their aspects, without affecting the peaceful application of these technologies. India, along with the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, hopes that the draft will receive wide support in the Committee, and we therefore recommend the draft resolution for adoption by all members.

I would like also to take this opportunity to introduce another draft resolution, A/C.1/57/L.52, entitled "Reducing nuclear danger", under agenda item 66 (h), sponsored by Bhutan, Cuba, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Namibia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Sudan and Zambia.

We believe that, with the end of the cold war, there remains no justification for thousands of nuclear weapons to be maintained in a state of hair-trigger alert. This state of high alert of these nuclear weapons poses the risk of accidental launch in response to a false warning or wrong communication and the hazard of their falling into the wrong hands. We must prevent the irreversible consequences of such a dangerous eventuality.

We took the initiative of introducing this draft resolution in 1998, and every year it has received widespread support. The draft resolution, in its modest and practical approach, calls for a review of nuclear doctrines and for immediate steps to be taken to reduce the risk of the unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons.

There may well be apprehensions about the complicated nature of the technicalities involved. However, we believe that these can be overcome if there is the political will to do so. Undoubtedly, the elimination of nuclear weapons would require protracted negotiations, but this should not deter us from taking interim steps to reduce the immediate danger that these nuclear weapons pose, especially now that the global security scenario includes a grave threat from terrorists.

The imperative and urgent need to reduce the serious risk associated with unintentional, accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons has already been endorsed for many years now by the member States of the Conference on Disarmament, various Governments around the world and non-governmental organizations. The Canberra Commission, the Pugwash Foundation and the Tokyo Forum are just some of the organizations that have issued detailed reports on this threat.

In March 2000, the Secretary-General proposed the convening of a major international conference that would help to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in order to help focus attention on the risks posed by the hair-trigger alert of thousands of deployed nuclear weapons. A consensus Declaration adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit on 8 September 2000 also resolved to convene an international conference towards that objective.

The Secretary-General's report, submitted in 2002, in keeping with resolution 56/24 C, encourages Member States to continue their endeavours to create conditions that would allow the emergence of an international consensus to hold such a conference. The Secretary-General has also pledged that the United Nations will continue to fulfil its mandate in contributing to the reduction of nuclear danger by advocating nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the promotion of dialogue on proposals and new ideas

in this context, as well as support for disarmament and non-proliferation education and information.

For these reasons, we would propose to request the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts and to provide support to such initiatives that can contribute to the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/56/400), and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

The recommendations contained in the report are pragmatic and feasible. We have endeavoured, through our draft resolution, to garner the support of all States, which is necessary to ensure the safety and security of humankind in a world free from the danger of accidental launch, false alarms and the dangers posed by weapons deployed at hair-trigger alert.

It is a simple draft resolution, and we urge all delegations to support its implementation, because we believe that, with the adoption of such a draft resolution and the necessary political will for its implementation, we will take another significant step towards reducing nuclear danger.

**Mr. Erendo** (Mongolia): Mr. Chairman, since I am taking the floor for the first time in this Committee, may I congratulate you on your well-deserved election. My congratulations go also to the other members of the Bureau. I join previous speakers in expressing condolences to the delegations of Indonesia, the Philippines and the other countries whose citizens fell victim to the wanton act of terrorism in Bali. That incident is a fresh reminder of the dangers that terrorism poses to peace and security. It constitutes yet another urgent call for concerted and collective efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.21, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status". During the general debate, my delegation dwelt extensively on the activities undertaken to implement the provisions of resolution 55/33 S by my Government, as well as by the United Nations and by Member States. A very good update on the process is contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/57/159).

I would simply emphasize that this draft resolution is essentially a procedural one. It takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and expresses appreciation to him for the efforts to implement resolution 55/33 S. Like the previous resolution, it endorses and supports Mongolia's good-neighbourly relations with its neighbours, and it invites Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia on the implementation of its provisions.

The draft resolution that I am introducing today, although a procedural one, has been the subject of very careful examination by interested delegations. Thus, it enjoys wide support. My delegation, therefore, hopes that the Committee will agree, as before, to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

**Mr. Tajouri** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Indonesia, and to the families of the victims of the recent criminal act that took place in Bali. We strongly condemn such acts.

In this connection, I would like to touch on two topics. First, my delegation supports draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.28, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". The draft resolution was introduced by the delegation of sisterly Egypt. We understand the need to establish such zones, since their main objective is to serve international peace and security. My country firmly believes in the need to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. We also believe in the need to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya emphasizes that, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it has signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty — the Pelindaba Treaty.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has stressed the need to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. However, the Israelis' refusal to accede to the NPT or to place their nuclear installations under the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has impeded the fulfilment of this collective demand, which has been voiced in many United Nations resolutions, including the resolutions adopted in the outcome documents of the Fifth and Sixth Review Conferences of the Parties to the NPT, held respectively in 1995 and 2000.

In order to achieve international peace and security, my country calls upon the international community to ensure the implementation of those resolutions, by the Israelis in particular. The

international community must bring more pressure to bear on the Israelis to comply with the international will, accede to the NPT and place their nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA. They should also agree to a specific time frame, according to which Israeli weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, will be destroyed.

Secondly, we extend our warmest thanks to Ambassador Tibor Toth of Hungary, for his introduction of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.22 on the Biological Weapons Convention. We thank him also for his explanation of the dangers stemming from violations of this Convention and of what Member States should do to strengthen the Convention. As a party to the Convention, my country has actively participated in meetings related to strengthening the Convention. We also see a need to describe the circumstances in which the Convention was developed, while strengthening it with a view to agreeing on a standard approach to promoting its goals. In order to achieve this, an ad hoc open-ended working group was established under the Convention in 1994; it is designed to conclude a legally binding instrument to strengthen the Convention. The group has held 24 meetings over seven years. Regrettably, it could not continue its work; it failed to agree to a final draft report to be presented to the Fifth Review Conference. This is due to the stand taken by one State that opposed the continuation of the working group's work. In addition, the Fifth Review Conference, held in Geneva last year, was also unable to issue a final declaration, because one State proposed the termination of the work of the ad hoc working group, despite the fact that the majority opposed this. The Conference was therefore suspended and will resume at the end of this year.

My country categorically rejects the imposition of a unilateral policy as we work to strengthen the Convention. The best means to achieve that goal is to let the ad hoc working group complete its work and prepare a legally binding instrument through multilateral negotiations. All States that have not yet done so should speedily accede to the Convention so that it will be truly universal.

**The Acting Chairman** (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on the observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

**Mr. Hajihosseini** (Organization of the Islamic Conference): Since this is my first time addressing the Committee at this session, allow me to extend our sincere congratulations to the Chairman and, through him, to the other members of the Bureau on their election to their high offices. We are confident that the proceedings of this Committee will be successfully steered under his able and wise leadership. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on agenda item 63, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", contained in documents A/57/214, A/57/214/Add.1 and A/57/214/Add.2.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) keenly observes and participates in the deliberations of the First Committee, which addresses issues of concern to its member States, all of whom are also States Members of the United Nations. We shall be following those issues with much interest.

Among them are the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. Having recognized the fact that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an effective means to prevent nuclear proliferation and should contribute towards nuclear disarmament and lead to the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has had this issue on its agenda since 1976.

Since then, progress has been made on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa following the successful conclusion of the 1996 signing ceremony in Egypt of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. Our organization welcomed and has supported that positive development. And the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, at its twenty-ninth session, held in Khartoum, Sudan, in June 2002, has joined the international community in welcoming the recent agreement to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as a very important step in the disarmament process.

As for the region of the Middle East, it is regrettable that Israel remains an obstacle — in fact the only obstacle — to achieving the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. In that regard, the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, at the session to which I referred, has adopted a resolution urging all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to

exert pressure on Israel to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It also called on the international community, and the Security Council in particular, to compel Israel to comply with the relevant resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and to immediately implement the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) calling for the submission of all Israeli atomic facilities to the IAEA comprehensive safeguard system. I should add that the resolution also requested all Member States of the OIC to maintain and further coordinate their positions at the United Nations and other relevant international forums to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Let me conclude by referring to the Chairman's statement of 30 September 2002 to this Committee.

> "Our goals must be to continue the process of strengthening global norms to eliminate the deadliest weapons the world has ever known, promoting controls over other weapons that threaten international peace and security, and exploring measures to advance conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of disputes." (*A/C.1/57/PV.2, p. 11*)

It is our ardent hope that the international community will collectively work towards the achievement of those noble goals so that peace and security will prevail.

**The Acting Chairman**: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

**Mr. Sattar** (Secretary of the Committee): I would like to inform the Committee that the following Member States have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/57/L.4, China, Cyprus, Luxembourg and South Africa; A/C.1/57/L.5, Armenia; A/C.1/57/L.25, Cyprus, Japan and Uganda; A/C.1/57/L.30, Uganda; A/C.1/57/L.31, Albania; A/C.1/57/L.32, Egypt; A/C.1/57/L.33, Cape Verde, Estonia, Madagascar and Uganda; A/C.1/57/L.34, Tuvalu; A/C.1/57/L.35, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Micronesia, New Zealand and Samoa; A/C.1/57/L.36, Sierra Leone; A/C.1/57/L.38, Poland, Uganda and Yemen; A/C.1/57/L.43, Uganda; A/C.1/57/44, Cyprus; A/C.1/57/45, Uganda; A/C.1/57/46, Sierra Leone; A/C.1/57/L.51 and A/C.1/57/L.52, Cambodia; and A/C.1/57/L.53, Sierra Leone and Yemen.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*